

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 10537 111244Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13
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O R 111224Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2893

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 10537

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF TH LA
SUBJ: RTG REFUGEE POLICY

REF: CHIANG MAI 115 (REPEATED TO SECSTATE AS BANGKOK 9126)

1. A JVR REPRESENTATIVE RETURNED FROM CHIANG KHONG APRIL 11. LOCAL THAI OFFICIALS AND REFUGEES IN THE CHM KHONG CAMP INFORMED HIM THAT AT LEAST 64 YAO HAVE BEEN FORCIBLY REPATRIATED TO LAOS IN TWO GROUPS. THE FIRST WAS A GROUP OF 12 WHO ENTERED THAILAND MARCH 9 AND WERE RETURNED MARCH 15. THEY WERE ALL REPORTEDLY KILLED ON THE LAO SIDE (REFTEL). TWO OTHER GROUPS OF YAO CROSSED TO THE THAI SIDE FROM NAM KEUN: 28 ON MARCH 14, AND 24 ON MARCH 17. THEY MADE THEIR WAY TO CHIANG KHONG. THE DISTRICT OFFICER MARCH 27 PERSONALLY SUPERVISED THEIR TRANSPORT BY TRUCK TO HAT WAI, OPPOSITE NAM KEUN AND THEY WERE SENT BACK IN TWO BOATS TO THE LAO SHORE.

2. THERE ARE 38 TO 50 HMONG AND THAI LEU AT CHIANG KHONG DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS. DISTRICT OFFICIALS REFUSED TO GIVE THE JVR REPRESENTATIVE PERMISSION TO INTERVIEW THEM, ALTHOUGH HE HAD KNOWN AND WORKED WITH THEM WHEN HE WAS FORMERLY STATIONED IN LAOS.

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3. WE WILL ALERT THE UNHCR REGIONAL OFFICE OF THIS NEWS APRIL 12. PLEASE SEEK AN EARLY MEETING WITH THE CHIANG RAI GOVERNOR, AND REEMPHASIZE OUR OPPOSITION TO FORCED REPATRIATION.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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